US Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District

The Pacific Connection

BUILDING STRONG®

Summer 2015 Vol. 49 No. 3

What's Inside

USAKA Construction Apprentice Graduates Get Jobs

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Commander Col. Nestor Sadler (standing right) recognizes the hard work and dedication of six Marshallese apprentices, who worked with the U.S. Navy Seabee CAT on a project on Gueegue Island, and completed their learning program. Col. Sadler had asked representatives from on-island construction contractors and the Corps' Kwajalein Resident Office to attend the apprentice graduation. One of the Corps' MATOC contractors later hired all six apprentices. Photo Courtesy of USAKA

Follow Honolulu District Online!

www.facebook.com/HonoluluDistrict
www.twitter.com/CorpsHonolulu
www.flickr.com/HonoluluDistrict
www.youtube.com/HonoluluDistrict

Honolulu District's official website:
www.poh.usace.army.mil

4 Cadet District Engineer Training Offers Summer USACE Experience

6 USARPAC CG Tours Fort Shafter's Historic Bldg. T-112

8 USACE Deploys to Support Typhoon Soudelor Relief Efforts

11 District, 8th MP's SRT Conduct Active Shooter Exercise

12 Two Corps Projects at Schofield Barracks Win Historic Hawaii Foundation Awards

13 Employees Learn Safety, Health & Wellness at 21st Safety Day

14 District Ohana Gathers to Celebrate District and Army Birthdays

On The Cover

Cpl. David Schmidt from the U.S. Army's 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) Delta Company, repairs an electric line that powers water wells in the Gualo Rai area of Saipan. Courtesy photo

Honolulu District Commander
Lt. Col. Christopher W. Crary

Honolulu District Deputy Commander
Maj. Brennan V. Wallace

Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management
Anthony Paresa

Chief of Public Affairs
Joseph Bonfiglio

Pacific Connection Editor | Command Information Manager
Dino W. Buchanan

The Pacific Connection
BUILDING STRONG
Summer 2015 Vol. 49 No. 3

The Pacific Connection, an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1, is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440. Telephone: (808) 835-4004. This command information publication is published for Honolulu District employees and others who request it in writing and is also available online at: http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/. The expressed views and opinions are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. Contributions are welcomed and highly encouraged. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to any material submitted as deemed necessary. Circulation:1,100.

Commander's Comments

Lt. Col. Christopher W. Crary

District Commander

"The best place where the best people serve, singularly focused on executing quality projects...relevant, ready, responsive and reliable and having fun!"

Aloha District Ohana!

Thank you for your tremendous efforts this year. Even though we just completed another highly successful fiscal year-end, the next FY beckons with many challenges and opportunities to serve our state, local, and regional stakeholders.

During the last few months we have achieved a number of victories in the District: we awarded the second major construction contract for the USARPAC Mission Command Facility, achieved beneficial occupancy for the Fort Shafter Child Development Center, put the Draft EIS for the Proposed Ala Wai Project out for public comment, and reached Initial Operational Capability (IOC) for the District's Regional Engineer Center. We have accomplished many other significant achievements as well. Many thanks for your continued hard work to ensure that we honor our commitments.

I'm also very proud of our District's efforts to operate during this wild El Nino Pacific hurricane season, especially our contributions to the total USACE/FEMA federal effort to respond to Typhoon Soudelor in Saipan. The professionalism and selfless service are outstanding!

Pacific Ocean Division and District response teams to Saipan were augmented by members of Headquarters, USACE, three other USACE Divisions and six USACE Districts, the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), and the contracting community to provide temporary power to critical infrastructure as well as other engineering tasks in support of FEMA to improve/protect life, health, and the safety for the people ofSaipan. Our Power Planning and Response Team did a tremendous job! It was great to see them in action when I was there. POD Commander, Brig. Gen. Jeff Milhorn, Rep. Gregorio Sablan, and Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres were all very complementary of our efforts. All of our accomplishments truly highlighted the synergy of the bigger USACE team: One Team - Responding Strong! The mission will last a few more months, and will require additional personnel rotations for the debris mission. Thanks for your great support and stay tuned. There is a lot more time left in this hurricane season. Be prepared and stay vigilant!

This summer we also hosted numerous Senior Leader visits to District project sites including USARPAC Commander Gen. Vincent Brooks; the Honorable Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment; and Senior Executives Stacey Hirata, Northwestern Division/Pacific Ocean Division Regional Integration Team Chief and Dr. Ilker Adiguzel, director of the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL). They all spoke highly of the tours and briefings they received.

It was outstanding to see the great turnout of District employees, families, and friends at our 2015 Organization Day at Bellows Air Force Station in June. It was a huge success and great event to build our Ohana and to celebrate the success of the District's 110 years in the Pacific and the Army and USACE's 240 years of excellence to our Nation.

Later in June, our District conducted its 21st Annual Safety Day; an annual reminder for all to practice safe and healthful lifestyles.

It was also great to see several of our Honolulu District retirees join us at Safety and Org Days. Mahalo to everyone who helped make these events memorable. Inside this Pacific Connection, you'll read about of the events described above.

The Honolulu District continues to do outstanding work EVERY DAY, and I commend the Ohana for your part in that. FY16 awaits our full attention and dedication. Be a team player and remember to have some fun every day.

As always, thanks for all that you do to keep our Army and Nation strong.

ONE TEAM - BUILDING STRONG®!

Cadet District Engineer Training Offers Summer USACE Experience

Story by
Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

The Honolulu District hosted two U.S. Army cadets during July as part of the Cadet District Engineer Program (CDEP). This program allows West Point and ROTC Cadets an opportunity to gain first-hand construction and engineering experience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

CDEP Cadets are generally assigned for several weeks of training during summer break at USACE Districts to work on civil, mechanical, electrical, or environmental engineering projects. The program exposes them to USACE missions and helps them explore potential active duty opportunities within the U.S. Army Engineer Branch profession.

The two Cadets assigned to the Honolulu District were each afforded a familiarization opportunity to work on-site for one week at the District's Quad B Renovation project at Schofield Barracks and then the Combat Aviation Brigade Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects at Wheeler Army Airfield. The Schofield Barracks Quads were built back in the 1920s and the Corps is painstakingly ensuring that the renovation work is historically correct and reflects the barracks as they were originally built.

"The CDEP helped me understand the roles and options available in the Corps of Engineers and the different opportunities that are available to officers as far as broadening their experience and their engineering background," said Cadet Walker Glunz, a civil engineering major at the Pennsylvania State University, where in April 2015 he became the battalion commander of the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lion ROTC Battalion.

Glunz said working alongside Corps project managers and engineers and project contractors on the job site was a great help to him in understanding the engineer job site relationships.

Cadet Calvin Kiesewetter (right) asks Construction Control Representative Joe Tribbey about a window frame at the Corps' Quad B renovation project site. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

"Being able to assist project managers in discussing and analyzing problems and working through them in conjunction with the project engineers and contractors - as a team – was especially beneficial to me in understanding how difficult issues are discussed and resolved," Glunz said.

"On the Quad B project, one of the Corps Construction Control Representatives and I worked together for the first two days devising a plan to bring the window framing up to current building code. Going through the process from start to finish on site and producing a needed result was very enlightening."

Glunz has extensive experience in landscaping, having worked for his family's landscaping company Pine Creek Country Gardens and Landscaping since 2007, and continued working there throughout high school and during the summers in college. While there he also learned the concepts and skills behind the design and installation of commercial and residential landscaping, patios, and retaining walls. He also became proficient at operating and maintaining equipment including dump trucks, excavators, and skid loaders.

While on the project sites Glunz said he asked the professionals for some career advice.

"I spent a lot of time talking to the project managers about the concepts I have been learning in my civil engineering classes and how they apply in the field," Glunz said. "I'm very interested in the construction management field, so I also utilized some time talking to the contractors as well."

Cadet Calvin Kiesewetter, who attends the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, said the CDEP gave him a different perspective about the Army Corps.

"I kind of had an idea that the Army Corps of Engineers was more about doing civil works construction, and I really didn't know anything about the command, so the CDEP gave me the opportunity to see the Corps first-hand," said Kiesewetter, who will be entering his final year at West Point and is studying civil engineering with a focus on geotechnical and material science.

Kiesewetter also found the hands-on, on-site Corps experience beneficial in enhancing his working engineering knowledge.

Cadet Walker Glunz (left) takes notes about the Combat Aviation Brigade Phase 1 infrastructure on the project site layout from Schofield Barracks Area Office Deputy Area Engineer Capt. Alberto Baez. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Cadet Calvin Kiesewetter (far right) and Cadet Walker Glunz (second from right) listen as new U.S. Army Pacific Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes (fifth from right) and senior U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and USARPAC leaders are briefed in July inside the USARPAC Mission Command Facility (MCF) project at Fort Shafter. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

"Just going to all of the various meetings between engineers, contractors and program managers helped give me a better vision as to how the Corps works and operates on the job site," Kiesewetter said. "I found that even though the two projects (Quad B and CAB Phase 1 and 2) are being managed by the Corps, each site has its own working dynamic between the engineers and contractors."

Kiesewetter added that having already taken several classes in construction management helped him understand the concepts being presented in the field.

"Seeing how detailed and focused the engineers are about management on the job site is an eye-opener, for sure," he said. "Seeing the practical application of principles I learned in class that were being utilized here helped me appreciate the attention to detail needed on the job site every day."

Before going out to the project sites District Deputy Commander Maj. Brennan Wallace provided the Cadets with an overview of the District's various missions and how the District supports the U.S. Army. During their Corps familiarization, the Cadets also met with a broad cross section of people representing every department (Project Managers, Contracting, etc.) in order to show us how the Corps works.

.Following their two week familiarization at Honolulu District, the Cadets moved on to familiarization sessions with the 249th Engineer Detachment (Prime Power) and the 84th Engineer Brigade at Schofield Barracks. During their whirlwind three-week familiarization, the Glunz and Kiesewetter were personally invited to join new U.S. Army Pacific Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes for an early morning physical training session, and also participated in staff ride with Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Christopher W. Crary to various historical military sites on Oahu.

According to Maj. Wallace, "having cadets participate in the CDEP not only benefits the individual cadet, but also benefits USACE and the Engineer Regiment. The program exposes future officers to the Corps and its capabilities and helps them consider future assignment opportunities."

Cadet Kiesewetter, whose dream is to join the Engineer Regiment and potentially become a USACE officer, said any Cadets who might be interested in the CDEP "would greatly benefit from having a few classes in basic engineering, scheduling or project management" before accepting a spot in the CDEP.

"I would advise eligible Cadets to come out and see it first hand," Glunz said. "You may think you understand what the Corps of Engineers do, but seeing and working with the Corps in the field gives you a greater appreciation for their work and what career opportunities are available to you after graduation."

Editor's Note: Cadet Walker Glunz is from Friedensburg, Pennsylvania and Cadet Calvin V. Kiesewetter is from Willard, Missouri.

Cadet Walker Glunz (right) and Cadet Calvin Kiesewetter (third from right) observe contractors inspecting a water fountain drain line inside the USARPAC Mission Command Facility (MCF) project at Fort Shafter. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

USARPAC CG Tours Fort Shafter's Historic Bldg. T-112

Story by
Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

The Honolulu District was honored in July to host a site visit for U.S. Army Pacific Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks and his staff at the Corps' Bldg. T-112 Renovation Project on Fort Shafter's historic Palm Circle.

Building T-112, built in 1907 and also known as Dunning Hall, is an important structure that is a key part of the Palm Circle National Historic Landmark District.

Work includes the removal of hazardous materials and exterior lanai walls, structural repair, replacing windows and doors, adding new lighting and data systems, and adding upgraded fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems.

The historic building's character-defining features include a symmetric floor plan and elevation, Doric colonnades, an open lanai with exposed contoured rafters, old growth redwood clapboard siding, double-hung windows, a gabled roof, and double entry doors with transoms.

These character-defining features had been covered-up, removed, or in-filled in various renovations over the years.

The Corps is painstakingly working with our contractor GSI Pacific Inc to restore these character defining features with in-kind materials in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Two interior walls defining the once original front-to-rear entry vestibule (on each floor) will be restored or re-built. Cast iron columns within the first floor space, which are currently encased, will be exposed again.

The design team coordinated and consulted with the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works Historical Division throughout the design process and the Corps is working closely with them throughout the construction process.

Honolulu District Supervisory Engineer Steve Yamamoto shows U.S. Army Pacific Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks World War II graffiti painted on a pillar in the basement Fort Shafter's Bldg. T-112 . Building T-112, built in 1907 and also known as Dunning Hall, is an important structure in the Palm Circle National Historic Landmark District. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

The following historic items are being protected and preserved for posterity:

- historic graffiti on a second floor column
- a basement foundation post
- and charred rafters from an historic fire which the building survived

The Honolulu District takes great pride in this historic renovation project and we were very happy to share this work with the Commander of USARPAC and his staff.

U.S. Army Pacific Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks looks at an historic photo of Fort Shafter's Bldg. T-112 taken circa. 1910 during a briefing about the building's rehabilitation project from Honolulu District Supervisory Engineer Steve Yamamoto. Building T-112, built in 1907 and also known as Dunning Hall, is an important structure that is a key part of the Palm Circle National Historic Landmark District. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

Ohana Bids Farewell to Senior E&C Engineers

Honolulu District said farewell to two senior Engineering and Construction branch engineers - Dickson Ma (above), former Area Engineer at our Schofield Barracks Resident Office (SBRO) and Eddie Johnson (above right, standing center) former Deputy Chief of Engineering and Construction. Ma faithfully served the federal government for 36 years – with all but four of those years at Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division – and ALL with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While his wife and fellow engineer Lise recorded his farewell, a standing room only gathering of employees from the District and Pacific Ocean Division honored him and his wide three decades of construction experience. Ma's career with the Corps of Engineers began in 1982, when he joined U.S. Army Engineer Division, Pacific Ocean, Engineering Division as a Civil Engineer intern as a GS-5. As the SBRO Area Engineer, Ma provided leadership and management for a staff of more than 40 engineers, technicians, construction representatives and administrative personnel in three subordinate Resident Offices, as well as maintaining an efficient and economical organizational structure to accomplish assigned missions and programs. Johnson faithfully served the District for seven years after coming to Hawaii from Germany in 2008. Deputy District Commander Maj. Brennan Wallace presented Johnson the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his exceptional leadership and meritorious service. Under his leadership, Engineering and Construction implemented the use of SharePoint, greatly improving the efficiency in information sharing and serving as the common communication platform for Division Chiefs. For the last seven months of his tenure, he also tackled a dual hat role as the Acting Design Branch Chief. Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist and Dino W. Buchanan

Army Corps, Community Volunteers Clean the Beach for National Public Lands Day

More than 50 volunteers picked up trash Sept. 19 at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki in honor of National Public Lands Day. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) coordinated the event that was supported by Corps employees, U.S. Army Transporters from the 545th Transportation Company, and Punahou Junior ROTC cadets. Also participating were Pacific Ocean Division (POD) Commander, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, POD Command Sgt. Maj. Federico E. Boyce, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Chris and Mrs. Maria Crary, and District Deputy District Commander Maj. Brennan V. Wallace. About 35 cadets, led by Punahou Army JROTC Commander Lt. Col. Robert Takao, concentrated their efforts on cleaning up the beach berm behind historic Battery Randolph. National Public Lands Day is the largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands in the U.S. It began in 1994 and focuses on education and partnerships to care for the nation's natural treasures. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio

USACE Supports Typhoon Soudelor Relief Efforts

Story by
Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

In support of the Governor, local responders and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) personnel deployed in early August to support recovery efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI).

A USACE Power Planning and Response Team (Power PRT) from the Honolulu District made a huge difference, and included specialists for contracting, liaisons, mission management, data management, logistics, and quality assurance.

This specialized team worked with the U.S. Army's 249th Engineer Battalion, contractors, and commonwealth and local entities to assess, install and maintain emergency generators at critical facilities, especially at wells to ensure that residents of Saipan received a much needed supply of drinking water.

The Power PRT worked in support of FEMA and other federal partners to identify, assign and resolve existing and incoming FEMA mission assignments as well as other assignments or projects related to Typhoon Soudelor. FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), Steve DeBlasio, thanked USACE and the Power PRT for their assistance in meeting the humanitarian mission on Saipan, and praised them for their dedication and hard work.

"Their [USACE and the Power PRT] efforts go a long way in allowing the government of CNMI and the rest of our federal and private sector partners to create solutions to problems," said DeBlasio.

The USACE team also conducted engineering assessments of public works facilities that may have sustained typhoon damage, to include water treatment plants, medical facilities and public safety buildings.

The Army Corps of Engineers was on the scene from the beginning supporting FEMA and local officials. Prior to Soudelor's landfall, USACE had begun mobilizing and pre-positioning personnel from its FEMA-credentialed emergency management and Power Planning Response Team along with Soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion out of Hawaii.

"Prepositioning of personnel greatly contributed to the Corps' immediate response," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, who is the Commanding General for USACE Pacific Ocean Division.

In support of the governor, local responders, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and a USACE Power Planning and Response Team (Power PRT) from the Honolulu District made a huge difference. This specialized team worked with the U.S. Army's 249th Engineer Battalion, contractors, and commonwealth and local entities to assess, install and maintain emergency generators at critical facilities, especially at wells to ensure that residents of Saipan get a much-needed supply of drinking water. Courtesy photos

Under the National Response Framework and in support of FEMA, the Army Corps is the responsible agency for Emergency Support Function 3, Public Works and Engineering. These responsibilities include debris management, emergency infrastructure assessment, emergency temporary power, and critical public facility assessments.

When disasters occur, it is not just a local Army Corps district or office that provides part of the federal response. The Pacific Ocean Division at Fort Shafter, Hawaii coordinates the Army Corps' enterprise-wide emergency response with FEMA.

"While our Honolulu District is up front executing our mission in Saipan, teammates from across nearly all of the Corps' nine divisions are deployed or virtually engaged in this important humanitarian assistance mission," said Milhorn. "The Corps has a tremendous capability to quickly mobilize personnel and pull together technical expertise and other resources from across the country to carry out our response missions."

Emergency response personnel and technical subject matter experts for temporary power and debris management, contracting, logistics, and communication functions from Headquarters USACE; Great Lakes and Ohio River; Mississippi Valley; North Atlantic; Northwestern; South Atlantic; South Pacific; Southwestern; and Pacific Ocean Divisions all worked together to help ensure the needs in Saipan were being met.

According to then acting CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, "I have so much gratitude to the people of Guam, FEMA, Joint Region Marianas, the U.S. Marines and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for all their support in restoring utilities and the rest of the infrastructure so our residents can get back to normal as quickly as possible. I can't thank them enough; it's overwhelming."

Delta Company Powers Restoration of Electricity on Saipan

Story by
Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

Delta Company's Cpl. David Schmidt repairs an electric line that powers water wells in the Gualo Rai area of Saipan. Courtesy photo

Delta Company of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) deployed to Saipan in August and provided much-needed power line restoration support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authority missions in response to Typhoon Soudelor. Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan Aug. 2-3 with estimated 120 mph wind gusts, heavy rains, and lightning, leaving the island's 50,000 residents and tourists without water or power.

USACE support of FEMA included deployment of a Power Planning and Response Team (PRT) from the Honolulu District, Advanced Contracting Initiative (ACI) assets, resources from 249th Prime Power's Alpha and Delta Companies, and debris subject matter experts (SMEs) in order to conduct rapid assessments of critical infrastructure.

Delta Company, as a part of USACE, operates under the National Response Framework in support of FEMA and was part of the total federal response to this natural disaster. USACE is the agency responsible for Emergency Support Function Three, Public Works and Engineering.

The nine-man group of Delta Company Soldiers deployed from Rhode Island initially to assist with the repair of the Saipan port lighting system. FEMA also mission assigned the team to assist CNMI in installing the hardwire and electrical wiring on utility poles and assisting with bringing up the island's electrical distribution system.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) continues to work on restoring Saipan's power and water systems with the assistance of local, regional, and federal partners. The CUC Power Division, with the assistance of the 249th's Delta Company, is working concurrently to restore transmission and distribution systems throughout the island by slowly energizing areas after careful inspections while power plant crews address generation capabilities. After the storm the CUC said all 14,622 electric customers on Saipan were without grid power and later visual inspections confirmed nearly 800 power poles and 600 transformers were damaged.

According to Delta Company's Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge Sgt. 1st Class Jitu Whitehead, the group's certification as journeymen lineman – basically exterior electricians - was "a perfect fit" after the storm since the local utility company had limited manpower.

"After our initial mission of getting the port lights on line was complete, we offered our services as linemen and began assisting in getting power lines re-energized and de-energizing the more than 90 FEMA generators providing emergency power," Whitehead said. "In addition to reconnecting lines atop power poles, we worked to troubleshoot issues in the power substations as well as disconnecting the FEMA generators once the main feeder lines were back to 100% capability."

Whitehead characterized the missions on Saipan as "perfect training for Delta Company."

"We've been trying to link up with FEMA and for them to utilize our critical skills for some time, especially in these types of storm scenarios," Whitehead said. "This lineman mission directly links to what we do in our civilian jobs and what we do in the Army Reserve. It's definitely a positive learning experience for us to collectively work on Saipan's electrical distribution system, understand how it works while also being able to exchange ideas with the local company utility workers on processes that work for them and as us well. We can take back home some of those ideas back to our civilian jobs or to the Army and use those ideas to help us work more effectively and safely."

FEMA's federal coordinating officer on Saipan Stephen DeBlasio, said recently during a Saipan government recovery coordination meeting that Typhoon Soudelor rivaled major catastrophic events in the U.S. mainland and thanked the Corps of Engineers – in particular Delta Company - for their help. DeBlasio said this was the first time he has seen FEMA utilize the 249th Engineer Battalion.

"These are guys and gals climbing the poles and following behind CUC crews and making the connections, installing some of the hardware," he said, describing them as "heroes."

DeBlasio said the 249th team will be on island for a minimum 30 days, but he will press to keep them on board as long as the CUC needs them.

"I've been involved in (Hurricane) Katrina, I've been involved in 9/11, I've been involved in the hurricane season in 2004, and Irene in the northeast and I can tell you the devastation here on this small island rivals anyone of those events. This is a heavy lift."

FEMA said as of Aug. 27 that almost 90 of 200 new concrete utility poles have been installed and 58 of the 145 water wells of the Saipan are operable. The international airport and port have both resumed 24/7 operations.

The 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) is a versatile power generation battalion assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that provides commercial-level power to military units and federal relief organizations during full-spectrum operations. The battalion consists of a headquarters and headquarters company, four Prime Power line companies (A, B, C & D), and the Prime Power School. The 249th offers a variety of services including: electrical power requirement assessment, power production; transformer inspection and test analysis; maintenance and repair of power plants, substations, and government owned or managed transmission and distribution systems, circuit breaker and relay maintenance; infrared surveys, medium-voltage electrical contractor oversight, and training for personnel to operate and maintain prime power distribution and generation equipment.

Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) Delta Company, connect emergency generator power lines to a water pump substation on Saipan as part of the federal response to Typhoon Soudelor. Courtesy photo

Alpha Company, 249th Engineer Battalion, consisting of a company headquarters and four prime power platoons, is located at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Delta Company, comprised of all U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers – including the nine who originallt deployed to Saipan - has its headquarters and three platoons at Cranston, Rhode Island, and one platoon at Fort Belvoir, Va. Each line company and its four to six platoons are capable of setting up, operating, and repairing complete medium voltage power generation and distribution systems worldwide.

The 9th Mission Support Command's Tanapag U.S. Army Reserve Center on Saipan is being used by FEMA as an operations center and staging area for generators, communications systems, food and water. The Army Corps of Engineers Power Planning and Response Team along with the Army's 249th Engineer Battalion has assessed, installed and maintained emergency generators at water wells and other critical facilities.

Background Satellite Graphic Courtesy of NOAA

District Attends Site Blessing for Laupahoehoe Project

Officials from Honolulu District and Honolulu-based contractor American Marine Corporation attended a traditional Hawaiian site-blessing at Laupahoehoe Harbor on the island of Hawaii's Hamakua Coast in July to inaugurate the start of the Laupahoehoe Small Boat Harbor Repair Project. Rev. Daniel Akaka, Jr. officiated the blessing, which was attended by members of the community, the contractor's team, and Corps officials. Rev. Akaka, the son of former U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, led two blessings, one at the harbor itself and one at the "10-ton" bridge (about one-half mile from the project site). The purpose of the construction is to perform maintenance repairs on the existing project, rehabilitate/repair the existing breakwater, as well as the wave absorber and dislodged armor stones. The contractor will also install a temporary bridge over the existing county bridge leading to Laupahoehoe Point. That work is included in the approximately one half year project timeline. The temporary bridge will support the weight of the construction equipment and materials, and will remain in place for the duration of the project. Courtesy photo

New USARPAC COS Visits MCF Project

New U.S. Army Pacific Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes and senior U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and USARPAC leaders conducted a site visit in July to the USARPAC Mission Command Facility (MCF) project at Fort Shafter. The MCF, which the Corps is building for USARPAC, will consolidate USARPAC Headquarters into one facility that will support Mission Command of Army or joint forces across the Asia-Pacific Area of Operations. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan

District, 8th MP's SRT Conduct Active Shooter Exercise

Story by
Staff Sgt. Taresha Hill
8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs,
8th Theater Sustainment Command

Members of the Special Reaction Team (SRT), 39th Military Police (MP) Detachment, 728th MP Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, participated in an active shooter training exercise June 4 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District.

According to Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Christopher W. Crary, "the Honolulu District participated in an active shooter exercise as part of the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii's annual Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection exercise in order to test the District plans and procedures for an active shooter incident."

The District's Regulatory Office served as the impacted organization for the garrison exercise. This enabled the Corps to leverage the garrison's planning and resourcing to improve training effectiveness while also supporting the garrison's efforts to obtain their quarterly certification of their reactionary teams. This further enabled the District to test and validate our active shooter battle drills.

Deputy District Commander Maj. Brennan V. Wallace and District Security Manager Shane Bush were instrumental in setting up and coordinating the Corps' participation in this event as well as conducting preparatory training activities to ensure the entire District received refresher training procedures and activities. Linking our training to U.S. Army Garrison quarterly certification paid huge dividends in our ability to make the training effective and realistic."

Members of the 39th MP Det. SRT prepare to face the unknown as they enter the Honolulu District's Regulatory office during the active shooter training exercise. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

In the scenario, a disgruntled person was pushed past his breaking point, so he decided to take the lives of others. The shooter took hostages while barricading himself and the hostages in an unknown room inside a building.

A call was made and first responders arrived on scene, secured the location and became the eyes and ears for other emergency responders. In order for emergency responders to collaborate with each other, a temporary base of operations called an "incident command" was set up nearby.

First responders from 558th Military Police (MP) Company, 728th MP Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, arrive on scene and secure the area during an active shooter training exercise held at Honolulu District's Regulatory Office. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Capt. Noel Whitten, officer in charge of incident command, had a multitude of tasks he was required to track and said they were a great learning experience for him.

"You have to rely on your different subordinates because you have a lot of outside agencies and subject matter experts coming in," said Whitten. "It definitely takes teamwork."

As Whitten worked with the other emergency responders, he said the ultimate goal was to negotiate a peaceful solution with the shooter, though sometimes things just don't work out that way.

"When we are called in, you know the situation has become nonnegotiable," said 1st Lt. Daniel Johnson, SRT leader. "We are the last resort."

While exercise scenarios may be similar, despite locations, Johnson said that it was the experience working with the emergency responders that his team needed in order to gain that real-world experience.

"We train like this all the time," said Johnson. "It's working with the other moving pieces that helps makes this real."

After arriving on scene and gathering all-important information from incident command, the SRT members made a plan to neutralize the threat. Once the plan was in place, the team moved out to its objective.

The team took up position and stacked outside a door of the building where the known shooter was waiting inside. Moving swiftly through the small building, the team cleared cubicle after cubicle until they spotted the shooter. The team moved into place and entered the room, and without hesitating, quickly neutralized the threat.

The training exercise was over and considered a success.

"It went well," said Sgt. Jeffrey Sadqer, SRT member. "We went in and did our job."

Military Police personnel surround the perimeter of Bldg. 214 while coordinators watch and evaluate the progress of the training exercise. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Two Corps Projects at Schofield Barracks Win Historic Hawaii Foundation Awards

Story by
Karen A. Iwamoto
Hawaii Army Weekly Staff Writer

The Historic Hawaii Foundation honored U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) with two awards, June 5, at its annual Preservation Honor Awards ceremony.

The awards recognized USAG-HI's rehabilitation of Buildings 450 and 451 at Quad D, and Building 104 at Tripler Army Medical Center. All of the buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places with renovation construction managed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.-Honolulu District.

"We're very happy our efforts were recognized by the (preservation) community," said Ken Hays, architectural historian with the Environmental Division of USAG-HI's Directorate of Public Works. "It shows the local community that the Army does take care of its historic buildings and resources, and by doing so, we help to preserve the nation's heritage while providing our Soldiers with a high quality of living."

Kiersten Faulkner, Historic Hawaii Foundation's executive director, said USAG-HI did exemplary work in sustaining the historic features of the buildings while updating the interiors, thereby demonstrating that historic buildings continue to have a place in contemporary society.

"The Army's story is an important part of our community's story," she said, "and these buildings help to tell that story."

A scene being shot from the Academy Award-winning movie "From Here to Eternity" are filmed at Quad D.

To accomplish the rehabilitations, DPW worked with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractors to identify and maintain the historic architectural characteristics of the buildings, while ensuring they were safe enough to meet antiterrorism/force protection (AT/FP), structural, seismic and physical security requirements.

The buildings were rehabilitated to reflect as closely as possible what they looked like during their period of significance, circa 1909-1945. The interiors were overhauled to include modern amenities, such as energy-efficient, air-conditioning units and windowpanes that reduce the amount of UV that enters the buildings.

Building 104 at Tripler Army Medical Center was completed in 1948 as part of the medical center and commissioned by Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson Jr. who was the military governor of the Territory of Hawaii during World War II. He hired the New York-based architectural firm York & Sawyer to design the medical center and Robert O. Thompson to design the landscaping. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

As seen in the movie

The rehabilitation of Buildings 450 and 451 of Quad D are part of USAG's Whole Barracks Renewal Program, which aims to restore the five historic barracks on post, including one that was built in 1914.

Quad D is home to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. Also known as the Wolfhounds, the 2-27th Infantry Regiment has a strong historic connection to Quad D.

"Quad D was built in 1921, and the Wolfhounds have lived there ever since," said 2-27th Inf. Regt. Command Sgt. Maj. Derek Gondek. "We've left to support this country in every major conflict, but we've always come back to the D Quad. It's our home.

"The first shots of World War II were fired at D Quad," he continued. "When some Japanese planes flew over and fired some shots, some Wolfhounds secured their weapons and fired back from the roofs of the D Quad."

Added Hays, "There's a lot of unit history there. Many of the Soldiers have a familial history, as well. Their fathers and grandfathers lived there while they were stationed here."

The rehabilitation maintained the buildings' high ceilings, deep porches and balcony arches – all trademarks of the American Italianate style of architecture.

Scenes from the 1953 movie "From Here to Eternity," which won eight Academy Awards, were also filmed at Quad D.

An oasis restored

Like Quad D at Schofield Barracks, Building 104 at TAMC is also steeped in historical significance. Completed in 1948 as part of the medical center, it was commissioned by Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson Jr., who was the military governor of the Territory of Hawaii during World War II. He hired the New York-based architectural firm York & Sawyer to design the building medical center and Robert O. Thompson to design the landscaping.

Lt. Gen. Robert Richardson

"(Richardson) wanted it to look un-military," Hays explained. "He wanted it to look and feel like a resort, and we renovated it in keeping with his wishes."

The most noticeable change is that the building is once again adorned in its coat of iconic pink paint.

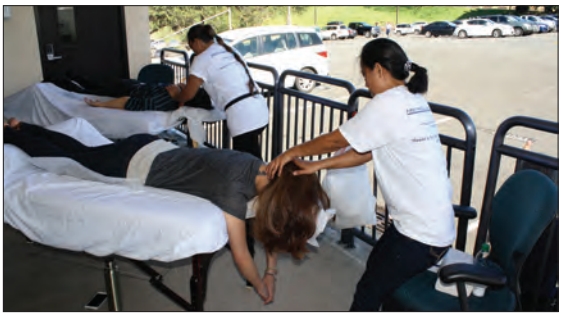
"Gen. Richardson met Thompson in the 1940s and he wanted the medical center to emulate the Royal Hawaiian in Waikiki. That's the inspiration for the pink," Hays said. "And at the time, in the 1940s, the Royal Hawaiian was also surrounded by beautiful gardens. Unfortunately, most of those gardens are now gone, but we've maintained the original landscaping at TAMC."

Also in keeping with Richardson's original vision, the rehabilitation includes an enhanced outdoor recreation area.

The rehabilitation of Buildings 450 (left) and 451 (right) of Quad D are part of U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii's Whole Barracks Renewal Program, which aims to restore the five historic barracks on post, including one (Quad B) that was built in 1914. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan

Employees Learn Safety, Health & Wellness at 21st Safety Day

District and Pacific Ocean Division Ohana celebrated our 21st Annual Safety Day in June. After assembling for a group photo, employees, family members and guests participated in a Fun Run/Walk around Fort Shafter. Afterwards, Kaiser Permanente health personnel conducted blood pressure screenings, tested people's grip strength, handed out health promotion information, and Kaiser's Physical Therapy Doctors Marc Iyomasa and Eric Kamimura demonstrated proven methods to stay fit and protect our backs and joints from injury. Other briefings and events included massage therapy, wellness, and a golf clinic.



Photos by Dino W. Buchanan & Joseph Bonfiglio

District Ohana Gathers to Celebrate District and Army Birthdays

Turtle Beach, Bellows Air Force Station, Oahu

Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Visual Information Specialist

Employees of the Quarter

Second Quarter 2015

Un Young "Jin" Onuma

Jin was recognized for her continuing and tireless work supporting multiple offices and programs in the Honolulu District. During this quarter, she provided administrative support to Contracting Division, in addition to her busy workload in managing the PPMD front office. This support included Time and Attendance record keeping; processing travel orders/vouchers; making travel/training arrangements and provided assistance with general correspondence. Concurrently with these duties, Jin directed the administrative activities for all of PPMD, to include mentoring of three administrative staff; and provided spot support to the Executive Office. In her "spare time", she served as the Project Manager for the USACE Customer Satisfaction survey (Civil Works Program). This required her to coordinate directly with Headquarters, USACE and 17 program stakeholders; and prepare Corporate Board briefings. Ms. Onuma juggles and balances all activities and tasks with a calm, organized manner.

Kent Tamai

While serving as a Supervisory Contract Specialist in the Contracting Division from April to June 2015, Tamai took a leading role in the movement of Contracting and other divisions within the District into swing space. His efforts on this project were instrumental in the success of the 1102 community being able to situate themselves efficiently without missing a single step in the contracting process while also allowing the office to work effectively. While performing this added duty, Kent's own workload did not suffer as he was still able to maintain the same level of professionalism to his customers. His efforts to get us moved into temporary space while seamlessly executing contracting work is to be commended.

159 Years of Federal Service Experience Retires from District

Honolulu District said farewell recently to five of the District Ohana as Dickson Ma (bottom center), former Area Engineer at our Schofield Barracks Resident Office, Ronnie Kirkland (below right), former Chief of Resource Management, Jyun Yamamoto (top right), Administrative Professional in the Contracting office, Steve Paahana (top left), USACE Logistics Agency Service Specialist, and Walter Nagai (bottom left), Environmental Engineer (bottom left), all joined the ranks of the District's honored retirees. Ma served the federal government for 36 years – with all but four of those years at Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division – and ALL with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Kirkland, our former Chief of Resource Management, faithfully served the federal government for 35 years and the Honolulu District for 14 years. Jyun Yamamoto served as an Administrative Support Clerk in the District's Contracting Division from June 1999 through July 2015, and was the primary person handling budget submissions. Paahana served the U.S. in many capacities for 37 years, most recently as a USACE Logistics Agency (ULA) professional. Walter Nagai served the U.S. Government for 35 years, most recently as an environmental engineer in our Formerly Used Defense Sites program.

Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist and Dino W. Buchanan

District Provides Regulatory Clarity for Our Stakeholders Across the Pacific

In a continuing effort to help the people of Hawaii and the Pacific region, the Honolulu District is holding outreach events to explain the Corps' Mission and Regulatory Program, and how to best work with Corps Regulators. In mid-June, District Regulator Kate Bliss briefed attendees of the Pacific Islands Environment Conference (PIEC) in American Samoa (AS) on the Corps' Mission; mission sets that benefit the territories such as Civil Works, Emergency Response, Interagency and International Services, and of course, the Corps' Regulatory Program.

Courtesy Photo

The briefing was well-received and provided the audience valuable information.

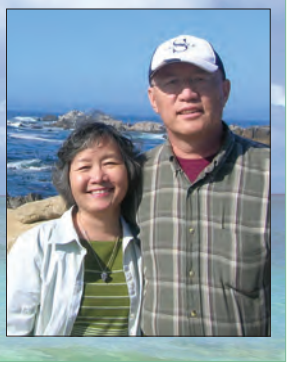
The (PIEC) is jointly sponsored by the governments of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), American Samoa, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This event draws attendance from government officials and environmental leaders across the Pacific as well as the U.S. mainland. Various agencies and people that attended the conference included USEPA, Department of Interior, American Samoa Office of Insular Affairs, AS Dept. of Commerce, AS Dept. of Public Works, AS Department of Port Administration, AS Dept. of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and leading experts in the fields of climate change, ocean health, renewable energy, and solid waste management.

The theme for the 2015 Pacific Island Environmental Conference (PIEC) was: "Islands United: Creating Solutions." This two-part theme speaks to the fight of the Pacific Island Nations against the many environmental issues the world faces in these challenging times.

In Memorium

Former Honolulu District Commander (1991-1993) **James Toshiro "Jim" Muratsuchi,** *66, of Kaneohe, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, Marine Corps general engineer and former regional manager at Forest City Residential Management, died at home in late July. He was born in Hachiman, Japan. Memorial services were held in August.*

Former Honolulu District employee David Wong.(right) recently passed away. He was the hand-picked senior civil engineer on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' team to survey for repair of the highway damaged after the devastating 2004 tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Though he was battling cancer at the time, David Wong extended his duty in Banda Aceh to help the people of that region. Though he always disliked public recognition, David Wong was once named a Honolulu District Employee of the Year for his selfless efforts. Wong's memorial services were held in July in Bothell, Washington.



Transitions

Welcome: Raelene Hampton / Roger Smith / Capt. Tobias Apps / DJ Fusero / Dean Davis / Kimberly Chu / Jianping Pu / Sgt. Angela Godfrey / Staff Sgt. Christopher Francis / Cadet Calvin Kiesewetter / Cadet Walker Glunz / Judy Carter / Mike Wyatt / Samantha Vazquez / David Gilliam / Vera Koskelo / Jack Siu / Katy Damico / Young Sook Chong / CWO4 Brian Cox / Mark Erice

Welcome Back: Kelly Jones / Reid Oshiro / Brad Scully / Katie Tamashiro / Walter Nagai

Goodbye: Tristin Suetsugu / Jyun Yamamoto / Ryan Winn / Steve Johnson / Brandi Castillo / Eddie Johnson / Jon Coloma / Stan Keolanui / Candace Lotomau / Tom Snider / Niel Tamayori / Walter Nagai / Cadet Calvin Kiesewetter / Cadet Walker Glunz / Eric Sugiyama / Staff Sgt. Christopher Francis / Dickson Ma / Steve Paahana / Jarrett Hara / Paul Takata / James Nakamura / George Young / Jonathan Swanson / Daniel Wong

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Public Affairs Office
Building 230, Rm. 302
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Official Business